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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who, by Your glorious power, brought hope into our lives, fill our lawmakers with Your peace. In the intricate challenges they face, provide them with the ability to persevere. Through life's storms, Lord, may they experience a peace because of their palpable connection with Your divine presence. In Your boundless compassion, be for them a shade by day and a defense by night. Give them the wisdom to please You by striving to live blameless lives.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK,

a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have a busy day in store for the Senate as we aim to hold a number of important votes before the start of Yom Kippur.

Today, we will vote to advance four Presidential nominations. First, we will confirm James Kvaal to be Under Secretary of Education, and we will also confirm both David Estudillo and Angel Kelley to serve as district judges in Washington and Massachusetts, respectively.

This afternoon, we will also advance the nomination of Ms. Veronica Rossman of Colorado, who has been nominated by President Biden to sit on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Rossman has spent practically her entire legal career in public service as a Federal defender, giving a voice in the courtroom to those who often cannot afford legal representation.

She is also an immigrant, who fled Russia with her parents as a child after her family endured anti-Semitic persecution in their home country. She understands personally the damage faced by those who endure discrimination.

If confirmed, Ms. Rossman would be the only Federal defender to sit on the Tenth Circuit, and one of the few in the entire country. I am proud to have nominated Eunice Lee to the Second Circuit Court of New York. She, too, has been a Federal defender.

We also have plenty of prosecutors and corporate lawyers wearing black robes.

Like so many other of President Biden's judicial nominees, Ms. Rossman is going to bring a sorely needed perspective to our courts. The more we work to make our courts reflective of the diversity of this country, both demographic and professionally, the more we will strengthen the public's trust in our judicial system.

Now, secondly, today, the Senate Democrats will also continue work to turn President Biden's Build Back Better agenda into law. It bears repeating: This is a historic effort. This is not just another simple piece of legislation. We are laying a foundation for another century of American prosperity. Just like the Great Society and the New Deal before it, our legislation will bring transformational change to help build ladders so that those can climb up into the middle class, while making it easier for those already in the middle class to enjoy that middle class life and stay there. Too many in the middle class worry they are going to slip out with all the changes occurring in our society. We strengthen their ability to stay.

And too many who are trying to climb those ladders find the ladders steep and unavailable. We are providing those ladders so they can get there, too. It is strong, bold, important legislation, and it is really a privilege to be here in the Senate and consider something as strong and bold as this.

Later today, our caucus will discuss the latest elements of the reconciliation bill. Working with our colleagues in the House, we will have met the target date of September 15 set in the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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